

## Did you know...



Children are very curious about the world around them. They want to know about the weather, how things work, facts about animals, etc. Nonfiction, or information books, help children learn about the things that interest them.

Nonfiction books should have a lot of photos or drawings to help children see what they are reading about. If there are a lot of words on each page, you don't have to read every one. Read the main points on each page and then ask questions to see what your child is interested in.

Don't shy away from some of the higher level words that are often in nonfiction books. Your child needs to hear lots of different kinds of words in order to learn to read later on.

## Here's how...

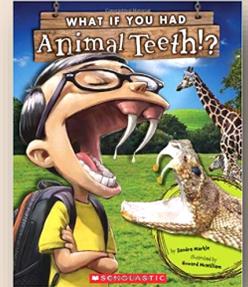


- ✦ Make time for your child to be out in the natural world. Take walks through the woods, splash in a creek, go to a park. Children this age love to explore, so get outside and enjoy some time in nature.
- ✦ Go to your local library and check out books about the things your child is interested in. Whether it is dinosaurs or bugs or bunnies, libraries can provide books that are just right for your child.
- ✦ Ask your child questions about the book by having them look at the pictures. Pictures provide a lot of clues about the information in the book.

## Read

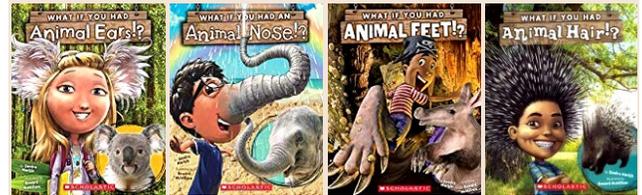


### **What if You Had Animal Teeth?** by Sandra Markle



If you had beaver teeth, you could nibble on tough things every day and your teeth would never stop growing! Introduce your child to some unusual animals and learn how they use their teeth to help them survive.

Other books in this series:



## Choose Books



### **More great nonfiction:**

*The Frog Book*, by Steve Jenkins

*Camp Panda*, by Catherine Thimmesch

*Sea Bear: A Journey for Survival*, by Lindsay Moore

*Baby Elephant Joins the Herd*, from the American Museum of Natural History

*Seashells: More than a Home*, by Melissa Stewart

*Hey, Water*, by Antoinette Portis

*You Are Home: An Ode to the National Parks*, by Evan Turk

## Talk



*I notice, I wonder, It reminds me of...* This is a great way to talk with your child about the world around them. Take a few minutes to watch an army of ants on the sidewalk, or study the lines on a leaf. Use these phrases, “I notice...” “I wonder...” “It reminds me of...” Share what you see, ask questions, and make connections to something familiar; and ask your child to do the same.

## Write



Find a notebook, or create a homemade book by stapling sheets of paper together. Write a short note to your child (something about your day, something funny that happened, something you noticed about them). End the note with some questions for your child to answer. Leave the journal in a special place for your child and let them write back to you (you or someone else will need to help them read your entry). Try to do this at least once per week. Put the date on each entry. This is an excellent way for your child to practice writing and reading, and it’s a nice way to connect with your child. You will also have a record of your child’s writing and spelling to see their growth over months, or even years.

## Play



**Act Like an Animal...** Use slips of paper, popsicle sticks, or cut up cereal boxes and write a phrase on each, then put them in a bag:



Hop like a bunny  
Waddle like a penguin  
Slither like a snake  
Stretch like a cat  
*Make up more on your own!*

Take turns drawing a slip from the bag and have fun acting out what it says. Get silly!

## Sing



### The Ants Go Marching

The ants go marching one by one.  
Hoorah! Hoorah!  
The ants go marching one by one.  
Hoorah! Hoorah!  
The ants go marching one by one;  
The little one stops to suck his thumb,  
And they all go marching down into the ground  
To get out of the rain.  
Boom, boom, boom, boom!

*Repeat:*

Two; little one stops to tie his shoe...  
Three; little one stops to climb a tree...  
Four; little one stops to shut the door...  
Five; little one stops to take a dive...  
Six; little one stops to pick up sticks...  
Seven; little one stops and looks to heaven...  
Eight; little one stops to roller-skate...  
Nine; little one stops to check the time...  
Ten; little one stops to shout, “THE END!”

Hear the tune and see a video at: [bussongs.com](http://bussongs.com)



## At your library...



**Electronic books and audio books:** Screen time for young children should be limited; however, reading an occasional picture book with your child on your device is one way to enjoy more great stories together. Or skip the screen—listening to audio books develops important early literacy skills. Ask your library about e-books and audio books available for checkout.